



# Deception

*C.J. Redwine*

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## **Deception** C.J. Redwine

In this daring sequel to *Defiance*, with the world they once loved forever destroyed, Rachel and Logan must decide between a life on the run and standing their ground to fight. With their ragged group of survivors struggling to forge a future, it's up to Logan and Rachel to become the leaders they need. Under constant threat from rival armies and no place to call their own, the group decides to take their chances in the Wasteland, despite the deadly risk of *The Cursed One*. But soon their problems begin: someone - possibly inside their ranks - is sabotaging the survivors, picking them off one by one. They begin to question whether the price of freedom may be too great. And whether their band of survivors, hunted by their enemies and the murderous traitor in their midst, can make it out of the Wasteland alive...and whether Rachel and Logan can survive these trials together.

## **Deception Details**

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Author : C.J. Redwine

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## From Reader Review Deception for online ebook

### Jodi Meadows says

Gorgeous.

Gorgeous characters.

Gorgeous writing.

Gorgeous worldbuilding.

Gorgeous FEELINGS.

Now I need the third please!

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### Whitley Birks says

This was not a book about Rachel. Yes, I know she's on the cover and I know the blurb goes on and on about her. But this was not Rachel's book. This was Logan's book. Rachel spent the majority of the book going on about being broken and basically hollowing herself of all emotions and being a shell of a character that just floated through the plot. She was utterly unremarkable. Logan, on the other hand, had all the angst and all the drama and all the action and all the backstory and all the character growth. It was his book, his story, and Rachel just tagged along and said "I am nothing" a lot.

Which really irritated me, considering they've been through pretty much the same thing. The people who died last book were Logan's family, too. And yet instead of falling into a black hole of non-character, Logan gets to have some really interesting angst as he stumbles forward and does his best to operate anyway. Only the female character gets crushed into a non-entity by her tragedy, I guess.

Deception was at once better and worse than Defiance. It had a more compelling story line and better emotional issues, and things were more cohesive as a whole. Watching Logan deal with the stress of being a 'leader' and try to keep it together while everything is falling apart, that was just fascinating.

The storytelling part of the book was perfectly executed, excellent pacing and tension that kept me reading long after I meant to stop. The fact that we dealt with a small group of people instead of a whole nonsense culture helped, too. There was very little worldbuilding, but there didn't need to be, because it was just 150-ish people in the woods, and that worked. The narrower focus allowed the characters to just be characters, instead of making them be cogs in a city that makes no sense.

On the other hand, this book took a serious nose-dive in the logic department. I think every page had some basic factual fail that had me rolling my eyes. Like how the book doesn't seem to understand that all the dirt from digging a tunnel has to go somewhere, or using a battering ram against a pile of rubble. Yeah, they did that. Pretty much every time Logan opened his mouth to talk about science, I had to stop and watch reruns of Bill Nye to feel clean again.

But all that was just eye-roll-worthy, and I can deal with it. The cringe-worthy stuff came about with the introduction of the bad-guy army. They're basically mooks that came out of nowhere to give the good guys someone to kill. They try and justify it by saying that those mooks 'chose their leader' and therefore...it's okay to kill them? One feature that was harped on through both books was that Baalboden people don't know anything about the other city states besides a few broad basics, so how do they know that every single person in that army is cool with following the bad guy? Also, one of Rachel's running issues is that she

killed someone who didn't deserve it last book, but this book...yeah, no second thought about stabbing army guys. Nevermind the fact that the person she killed last book was also just following orders, nope, doesn't even make her hesitate. Every single man in that other army uniformly decided to become evil, and therefore no emotional hang-ups need arise from murdering the fuck out of as many of them as possible. Just arbitrarily declare that they brought this on themselves, despite the fact that you have no way of knowing that, and then get to stabbing.

So creepy.

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## **Jenn says**

I can't decide if I like this book better than the first or not. It started out great then kind of sagged in the middle only to have a great last 25% or so. Also, despite Rachel being on the cover, this was more a Logan book - thank the heavens.

Picking up where the first left off, Rachel and Logan are trying to keep their people safe and at the same time find a way to stop the Commander. But nothing comes easy for our group as they are chased through the Wasteland by the Commander's army and also have to deal with sabotage on the inside. Not gonna lie, I totally called the saboteur from the beginning, so that wasn't a surprise, but at least the story surrounding them kind of was.

So what did I like? Well, I liked how Logan really became the roll of leader. It was something he didn't want, nor did he think he was equipped for it - but these things made him a good leader. He was smart and compassionate and quick thinking. Having to not only deal with his followers but with Rachel as well. I also liked the reveals that came at the end. I always wondered what the Commander hated about Logan and we actually found that out here. Yay, some questions were answered!

What I wasn't a huge fan of was the pacing, first off. It just seemed like too much travel with too much bad things happening that coincidentally no one ever saw. The game of cat and mouse got really played out toward the end there and really made no sense as to why it was dragged out. There was no point to the attacks on the people. And once I found out the real reason, petty jealousy came to mind which almost made it worse. Also, there's the lack of any real explanation of this world and where these cursed ones come from. This has only been touched on briefly throughout the two books and it's still really hard for me to picture the world that I live in now suddenly a wasteland that's terrorized by Tremors monsters (yup, I still picture them).

And finally, my main problem - Rachel. Oh Rachel. Just because you want to be strong doesn't mean you actually are. Hiding your feelings does not make you strong it makes you stupid. Especially when your hiding your nightmares and this is causing people to get hurt. When you freeze in battle, you get people killed. And a lot of people died here. Also, the woe is me attitude has no place here. Start thinking about other people besides yourself please.

This ended on more of a cliffhanger than the first so of course I'm going to read it. But I think I'll read the novella first because I saw that it's about Quinn and I am deeply fascinated by him and his sister.

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## **Madeline says**

OH.MY.GAWD. I read defiance in less than 3 hours and I was a crazy person in my house trying to convince my sisters how good the book was. I seriously cannot wait to see the LOVE in this book, ^^ the couple in defiance was seriously freaking A-D-O-R-A-B-L-E, ugh -\_- but i really hope there isn't a love triangle...and for those of you who have absolutely no idea what i'm talking about here is the preview. Baalboden has been ravaged. The brutal Commander's whereabouts are unknown. And Rachel, grief stricken over her father's death, needs Logan more than ever. With their ragged group of survivors struggling to forge a future, it's up to Logan to become the leader they need—with Rachel by his side. Under constant threat from rival Carrington's army, who is after the device that controls the Cursed One, the group decides to abandon the ruins of their home and take their chances in the Wasteland.??

But soon their problems intensify tenfold: someone—possibly inside their ranks—is sabotaging the survivors, picking them off one by one. The chaos and uncertainty of each day puts unbearable strain on Rachel and Logan, and it isn't long before they feel their love splintering. Even worse, as it becomes clear that the Commander will stop at nothing to destroy them, the band of survivors begins to question whether the price of freedom may be too great—and whether, hunted by their enemies and the murderous traitor in their midst, they can make it out of the Wasteland alive.

?In this daring sequel to Defiance, with the world they once loved forever destroyed, Rachel and Logan must decide between a life on the run and standing their ground to fight.

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### **Elizabeth Norris says**

Loved it.

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### **Hailey says**

DNF

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### **Ferdy says**

#### **Spoilers**

Meh, just another below average YA book. Everything was so predictable — there was nothing original about the plot, the characters, the relationships, or the world building.

-The world building lacked imagination and originality. It was the same old dystopian world that's present in other YA books — there was a city (Baalboden) surrounded by a wall to keep out some really bad thing, there was the stereotypical evil-power-hungry-commander guy in charge, there were secrets about how the world came to be so fucked up, etc. It was all so bloody boring.

-Most of the book was spent with Logan, Rachel, and the rest of the Baalboden survivors running/hiding from the bad guys/evil commander/army/other bad guys. Every few chapters Rachel, Logan and co would find out the army were right behind them and they'd quickly pack up and go — it was the same scenario over and over again, and all it did was make things even more repetitive and dull.

-Rachel was a rubbish main character, she was like every other annoying YA heroine. She was boring, self-involved, up herself, obsessed with her love interest, and reckless.

Ugh, I rolled my eyes at Rachel being 'different' from all the other girls she grew up with... It only made her less likeable.

It was weird how Rachel felt so guilty about killing someone in the first book but in this one she was happily killing loads of people.

-Logan was a dull character, he was meant to be some kind of genius and natural leader but it never read like he was. There was nothing endearing, clever or commanding about him.

-Logan and Rachel's POV's were so repetitive. Rachel kept banging on about how broken she was, how guilty she felt after killing someone, how she wanted vengeance, how nobody could understand her feelings, and how she couldn't open up to anyone. There was no growth in her character whatsoever — her thoughts stayed the same throughout. And all Logan did was moan and whine about all his responsibilities.

-Why would the Baalboden people elect Logan as their leader? He was the one that caused the destruction of Baalboden in the first place, plus he was only nineteen years old. It was bullshit that there wasn't one single older character that had the intelligence and ability to lead.

-Why were the Commander/Rowansmark desperate for the device (to call/control the beast-serpent thing) that Logan had when they appeared to have other means to call and control them?

-I did like that there were no silly love triangles, I'm sick of those (I don't mind a love triangle as long as its well written, and they rarely are). The secondary characters were quite good... Especially Quinn, Sylph, Willow, and Ian... Although, Ian did turn really cartoony and over the top at the end.

All in all, I didn't find it entertaining... There needed to be more twists and turns, and less cliches.

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## Elena says

I don't know why it took me so long to pick up the sequel. When I'm reading these books I'm thoroughly enjoying them!

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## Amber says

**Deception** is full of exactly that--Deception. Who can you trust when the greed for power takes precedence over loyalty? The ruthless Commander is back to claim the tech device and he has paired up with another city-state.

Logan and Rachel have their hands full. Not only does Logan have the weight of leading the remaining Baalboden citizens, but he is constantly having to reassure them that he is a nineteen-year-old fit for the job, even if he questions it himself at times. He doesn't want to disappoint the people who have lost so much already at the hands of their former Commander, and to the Cursed One. Obstacles of inexperience and age are just a few minor implications against a much larger picture. Besides the fact that the Commander is after them, Rowansmark want what they believe was stolen from them, so the Baalboden survivors high-tail it to

Lankenshire, in hopes that they can form an alliance and help against those that are coming after them.

The Wasteland proves to be vicious. Not only are there landscape hindrances, but Highwayman, an army, and the threat of the Cursed One at their feet. Deception is the perfect title for this story, as there is deception at every turn. Not only are they being tracked by a Rowansmark tracker, one of their own is hiding a secret as well. Who is the traitor amongst them is the big question.

Rachel is facing her own demons with difficulty. Even a strong willed woman can't shake the hurt, betrayal, death, and thirst for revenge. It claws away and beats her up mentally. Loss has become second nature, but the effects have hindered her judgment. Her loyalty to the people and to Logan, exceptionally to Logan as he is the one thing she has left to live for, keeps her in line. Sylph is another that Rachel loves. Even through the most difficult of times, she keeps a smile on her face and spreads her love across her friends and the others. Her humor and kindness was a light in the dark.

*"You aren't unfeminine. You just stink at setting a nice table or sewing a decent dress."*

*"It's nice to have my differences be an asset instead of something that makes me the most unfeminine girl in the room."*

I was on edge as the story unfolded and trying to figure out who was the traitor. I cheered the group on while they were facing difficult passages, and waiting to see if they would even make it was driving me mad! The story flowed well but at one point I was beginning to wonder if there was a bigger bomb waiting to be dropped. AND let me tell you...you will be shocked when it does. I was totally blindsided by it.

These characters really grew on me. A few particular really stole the show in my opinion. I just love Willow and Quinn. The brother and sister duo fighting machines. Willow is fierce and says what's on her mind. She is the one who will tell you what you don't want to hear, but need to hear. She says it how it is and I just loved her for that. Quinn...sigh...He is the epitome of a knight in shining armor. Talk about a swoonworthy character! He is smart, strong, a great listener, and sooo much more. The relationship between Willow and her brother is strong and I just love how they are there to protect one another.

I loved the action and suspense and those twists that threw me for a loop time and time again. Logan and Rachel are so sweet together, but man, they had so much on their shoulders. Both of them had a lot to work through as individuals, but knowing they had one another to lean on, kept their hopes up and that everything would work out in time.

I usually get a tad bit annoyed when a character constantly is fighting an inner battle, complain about it, push it aside, then dwells on it more. I know Rachel was dealing with a lot, but it did get a little old. I wish she would have just been forthright with Logan the whole time instead of bottling it up. But when she had a conversation with Quinn, I couldn't help but feel admiration for him, and sorrow for her. Always the tough girl and expected to be just that, it was time for Rachel to feel the natural emotions instead of pushing them away and face them.

I enjoyed Deception. I loved the action, the pacing and the characters. This left off on a little cliffy, and I cannot wait to see what will transpire in the next book.

\*Quote taken from an uncorrected proof and may change in the final copy.

## Chester Carstairs says

So... what happened?

I was really looking forward to reading this. After *Defiance*, I just know there's so much potential for this series. But boy, was I disappointed. First, let me say that I love books that focuses on... the humanity of people. No matter what plot there is, what action scenes or love scenes there are, it always goes back to "*How do you hold on to being humane in spite of everything that's happening?*". This kind of books almost always have a lot of me-time with the main protagonist's thoughts. And if others are bored with this, I particularly enjoy it.

And *Deception* would have delivered it. Logan exceptionally did well. But Rachel is an entirely different story altogether. It's not that I don't understand what she's going through. I do. But you can't tell me her rantings about silence and revenge and coldness and guilt and silence and silence and silence for 80% of the book did not annoy you. While it's heartbreaking that she has to go through all the bunch of craps that were thrown her way, this is still a book. And I need progress. It's already been established how much everything has hurt her and how she's refusing to deal with it. I'm not saying she has to move on fast, but the whole angry-for-everything does get repetitive after a while, and I find myself just skimming most of her chapter POVs. It really didn't help that half of the book was in her POV.

Logan, though. Logan dearie with all his worst case and best case scenarios. I so love being inside this man's mind. I'm actually jealous of him. Not of what's happening to them right now, but of his mind. I can barely think of a Plan B whenever I plan something, but the guy can think of Plan A-Z to Plan 1-1000.

We see a different Logan this time, too. He's now the leader of the Baalboden's survivors. And with Rowansmark and the Commander gunning for their lives, and a traitor in their midst, it definitely tested everything in him. And I like to say he passed. With flying colors. Or maybe not. \*wink\*

I did love the Logan-twist at the end, though. That and Logan himself each get a half-star for the final rating. I do hope we get a different Rachel in the next book. I pretty much had enough of this stone-cold Rachel, thank you very much.

*This review also appeared on Amazon.*

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## Hannah says

*Deception*, how I love thee! Let me count the ways....oh wait too many to count! In all honesty this book was seriously to die for. After loving *Defiance* to death last year, this book was easily my most anticipated. And boy did Redwine deliver a powerful sequel. My mind is blown. To smithereens. Now floating in the atmosphere...okay you get the picture. Basically my worries about *Deception* having Second Book Syndrome? Blown to smithereens. Something is seriously wrong with me.

Just as in *Defiance*, Rachel is seriously kick-all-the-butt. Ha. She's as fierce, loyal and still insanely good with a sword. I loved that her character was still strong, despite all the demons raging within her. Speaking of, oh man. Rachel does go through the wringer emotionally. Just watching the after-effects of *Defiance* roll in combined with all the ups and downs of *Deception*? It's tough. It made me feel all the feels for Rachel. But

she stayed strong and still kicked all the butt I could have wanted her too. Rachel FTW!

If we're talking character love, I totally cannot forget Logan [aka. my book boyfriend for LIFE]. He's still as ridiculously smart, scientific and swoony as he was in Defiance. Even moreso? He's got his own demons and issues and all the while he's the same voice you know and love! And love some more....

These two characters have the most beautifully broken lives and yet they still work! The romance works! Which brings me to the spot where I happily report that no stupid romance issues pop up! Proof of how un SBS this book is! Rachel and Logan? They just ROCK. And the rest of the cast is phenomenal! They rock so hard. You hate who you're supposed to hate, love who you're supposed to love, pity and sympathize with those who need it and just FEEL with them. It's so vivid. And wonderful.

This book was insanely action-packed. It starts off, starts a chugging and then we are on full speed ahead. Seriously. If you think it's safe? It's not. Don't ever believe your brain. It's intense and the action comes in all shapes and sizes. Which I LOVED. There was variety, but there was never a dull moment! Sure there were downtimes, but there is always something happening to keep you excited and on your toes. And when there's an aura of mystery, she keeps you guessing and re-thinking yourself and the eventually surprising you to the point where you think you were an idiot for not getting it sooner.

Before I forget, I just have to mention the Cursed One. Because he's the freaking bomb. Although I was actually really sad we didn't see more of him..[her?].in this book. Why I'm so obsessed with something that everyone in the book is afraid of I don't know. But I do know that what we saw the Cursed One was hecka legit. And that the things C. J. subtly mentioned about the Cursed One have me so excited and guessing and hoping that I can't stand it. If anything? Read for the Cursed One alone!

Of course with this kind of a book Redwine just has to kill our feels with an ending. An ending so unexpected and insane and yet so full of feels and anticipating and hope that there will be just one more page. An ending that makes you scream and shout with awesomeness. WAAAH. Feels. More feels. And more desperate need for the third book.

So because my brain can't think of anything else to rave about I will wrap this up. I could NOT have asked for a better sequel. I expected, they were met. And more. And more! C. J. fulfilled the standard of a sequel while keeping it new, fresh and oh so exciting. I am in love with these books and HIGHLY recommend them. Keep your eyes peeled for Deception to hit stores this month and if you still haven't read Defiance? What are you waiting for?

**Rating:** Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!

\*\*For more reviews, visit Book Haven Extraordinaire\*\*

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**Sylvia says**

## Whoa! Whoa! Whoa! 4.5 stars

I cannot believe I was going to give up on this book. It was dragging on for the first 30% but then **POW!** I got sucker punched right into the story until I was freaking **knee deep** in it with no escape out until I read to the very end. And **boy, oh boy, oh boy** what an ending it was. **I DID NOT SEE THAT COMING AT ALL.** Got me good and clean. This goes to show how much of an exceptional writer **Redwine** is. To not only weave such a suspenseful and plot twisting story, but a world that cannot be imagined and characters that just ooze such depth and emotions. The character building made me weep. It's a beautiful thing to experience. I cannot explain it to you without you taking the ride for yourself. **Redwine** literally thrusts a hand straight into your chest and rips your heart out. Bloody fantastic!

**Deception**, titled brilliantly, picks up exactly where it left off in **Defiance** with Baalbadon destroyed, Logan (our fearless and compassionate leader who takes everything to heart and blames himself for all the death and destruction) in charge and Rachel, (who needed to be smacked upside the head several times), on the verge of a complete and utter breakdown. She was so void of emotion and left so broken she actually made me cry, and I forgave her for it.

We are introduced to new characters, Ian and Adam (do we trust them or not?) and rejoined by old friends, like Quinn (oh how I love thee, let me take you in my arms and give you want you need), Willow (the embodiment of a true protagonist), and Thom and Drake (who are all loyal beyond words).

The Commander (would he freaking die already) is still relentlessly pursuing them at whatever costs but there is a new threat that has them all on their toes and looking over their shoulder at every second. Sabotaging them with deadly results. There were so many questions, so much suspense, my mind was going to explode and I needed to know the answers. Alas, it unravelled in one spectacular ending, appeasing me, angering me, killing me and making me lose it completely, but finally, some clattery as to why. Why that a\$&hole of a Commander was hell bent on getting Logan, why their was a traitor in their mist, and why everything that happened, did. At what cost, though? Their lives will never be the same and I only hope that they all get the ending they deserve, whether it be revenge, redemption or just learning to live with one self.

This remarkable second instalment is definitely a page turner that has you wondering, guessing, crying out loud, ripping your hair out and your heart. I **cannot** wait to read **Deliverance** because if the title is right, salvation is coming and they all better watch out.

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## Maja (The Nocturnal Library) says

These days, eight out of ten middle books in trilogies are complete letdowns, but as long as there are shining stars like *Deception*, I won't stop hoping that more authors will find a way to make those second installments less clichéd and more interesting. Fortunately for me and her other readers, this is a lesson C. J. Redwine doesn't need.

*Deception* picks up mere days after the end of *Defiance*. Logan was chosen as leader of their group, which consists of around a hundred Balbodeen survivors and two newcomers, Willow and her brother Quinn. With the device that controls the Cursed One in Logan's possession, they are safe from the creature, but the real monster, their former leader, is right on their heels. Logan and Rachel work relentlessly to take their people to safety.

Aside from the ongoing war and the constant danger, Rachel's spirit is constantly weighed down by PTSD and depression. She is full of quiet anger, hell bent on revenge against the Commander and always struggling to keep it together. Her traumas cause a reckless, almost suicidal behavior, which hurts and terrifies Logan.

By finding the right balance between anger and sadness for Rachel in her situation, Redwine proved to be an excellent psychologist and a very insightful person.

For the most part, Redwine avoids the usual middle book issues, but only just. Unlike most middle books, Deception has admirable character growth and a strong, full plot. The issues between Rachel and Logan aren't pointless, created only to build unnecessary and often excessive tension. They feel genuine, caused by their mutual grief, Rachel's overwhelming sense of guilt and Logan's new responsibilities. But even when they don't communicate like they should, even when Rachel is self-destructive and Logan completely wrapped up in his own genius, we might question their future together, but never their love for each other.

*My fingers curl over the flesh and bone that shelters his heart. A heart strong enough to keep moving forward even when he's lost so much. Strong enough to lead even when he doesn't want to. Strong enough to commit to me when I know I'm not an easy person to love.*

Rachel's and Logan's voices are nothing alike. I imagine Logan was extremely difficult to write, what with his mathematical mind constantly working to come up with new inventions. Redwine was able to portray this distractedness combined with worry for Rachel and his people beautifully. Despite his many concerns, being inside his mind after dealing with Rachel's constant anger was a soft and pleasurable experience.

Oh, but the secondary characters! Not many authors achieve such complexity in such a large cast of characters, and yet Redwine gave us Quinn, Willow, Ian, Adam and so many more intricately built individuals. Getting to know each of them was no easy task, but figuring out their motivations was a delight.

I am very much looking forward to the conclusion of this trilogy. I am not happy with the cliffhanger, but it's just one flaw in an otherwise excellent book. One flaw can easily be forgiven, right?

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## Frankie Lovely says

**2.5 stars**

**Review to come?**

Ok ....

so I have rants on this book and they mostly revolve around the nothingness of oh about 70% of this book! Seriously I feel like this series has been stretched out to make it 3 books when it should have been 2.

The good news? The last 30% of this book was an EASY 4 star rating. Unfortunately the first 70% was a 2 at best (because nothing happened!). I think they just needed to talk less, travel faster, and condense this into a duology and this would have been a great series!

ARG it just bothers me so much when books waste their potential!!!!!!

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## Tiana411 says

I can't wait to read this book. I can't believe people would leave such insulting remarks. If you disliked the first book so much why bother commenting on the next one if its not worth your time?

I've waited a long time to read this and I really enjoyed it. I once again fell in love with Logan and felt so bad for him, having the weight of the world on his shoulders.

I loved the duo POV, swapping between Rachel and Logan. Although I really liked Rachel I wished she would just open up a little. There was so much sadness and loss in their lives that I admire their strength and survival instincts. I don't think I would be strong enough to endure all of that and stay mentally stable.

C.J. Redwine is an incredible story teller and I found myself hooked into her world. I cried with their losses and I wanted so badly for them to find happiness. I'm dying to read the next book!!!

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